In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown in accordance with the mandatory amendment format.

1.-24. (Canceled)

25.   (New) A method comprising:

receiving, at a quality of service (QoS) module from an originating router, a session request for establishing a QoS session for transmitting information from the originating router to a destination router, the originating and destination routers being Internet Protocol (IP) routers;

sending, from the QoS modules, a message to the originating router in response to the session request, the message including a request to reserve resources at the originating router for transmitting the information according to parameters of the QoS session; and

setting up, by the QoS module, the QoS session on the transmission path between the originating and destination routers in accordance with the session request if the resources are available and reserved at the originating router;

wherein the QoS module is located at a QoS hosting site of a Wide Area Network (WAN) that is communicably coupled to the originating and destination routers.

26.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the QoS session establishes a pre-determined service level between the originating router and the destination router by setting the parameters for the routers to maintain during the QoS session.

27.   (New) The method of claim 25, further comprising monitoring the routers in the transmission path to determine whether the parameters of the QoS session are met.

28.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the session request is a standard IP message.

29.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the sending the message includes presenting the message to the origination router as a Telnet message.

30.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the QoS module maintains security in a network of the QoS session by utilizing commercially-available firewall products.

31.   (New) The method of claim 25, wherein the sending the message to the originating router further comprising sending the message to one or more other routers on the transmission path between the originating router and the destination router to determine if resources are available for the QoS session at the one or more other routers.

32.   (New) A network, comprising:

an originating router coupled to a host in a first local area network, the originating router being an Internet Protocol (IP) router;

a destination router coupled to another host in a second local area network, the destination router being an IP router; and

a quality of service (QoS) module at a QoS hosting site of a Wide Area Network (WAN) communicably coupled to the originating router and the destination router to:

receive a session request for establishing a QoS session for transmitting information from the originating router to the destination router;

send a message to the originating router in response to the session request, the message including a request to reserve resources at the originating router for transmitting the information according to parameters of the QoS session; and

set up the QoS session on the transmission path between the originating and destination routers in accordance with the session request if the resources are available and reserved at the originating router.

33.   (New) The network of claim 32, wherein the QoS module further comprises a session setup module for sending the message to the originating router.

34.   (New) The network of claim 32, wherein the QoS module further comprises a node server module for monitoring the routers in the transmission path to determine whether the parameters of the QoS session are met.

35.   (New) The network of claim 32, wherein the QoS session establishes a pre-determined service level between the originating router and the destination router by setting the parameters for the routers to maintain during the QoS session.

36.   (New) The network of claim 32, wherein the session request is a standard IP message.

37.   (New) The network of claim 32, wherein the QoS module sending the message to the originating router further comprising sending the message to one or more other routers on the transmission path between the originating router and the destination router to determine if resources are available for the QoS session at the one or more other routers.

38.   (New) The network of claim 37, wherein the one or more other routers determine, in response to the message, whether the resources are available and return another message to the originating router if the resources are unavailable.

39.   (New) An article of manufacture, comprising a computer-readable medium including data that, when accessed by a computer, cause the computer to perform operations comprising:

receiving, at a quality of service (QoS) module from an originating router, a session request for establishing a QoS session for transmitting information from the originating router to a destination router, the originating and destination routers being Internet Protocol (IP) routers;

sending, from the QoS modules, a message to the originating router in response to the session request, the message including a request to reserve resources at the originating router for transmitting the information according to parameters of the QoS session; and

setting up, by the QoS module, the QoS session on the transmission path between the originating and destination routers in accordance with the session request if the resources are available and reserved at the originating router;

wherein the QoS module is located at a QoS hosting site of a Wide Area Network (WAN) that is communicably coupled to the originating and destination routers.

40.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the computer-readable medium further includes data that cause the computer to perform operations comprising monitoring the routers in the transmission path to determine whether the parameters of the QoS session are met.

41.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the session request is a standard IP message.

42.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the sending the message includes presenting the message to the origination router as a Telnet message.

43.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the QoS module maintains security in a network of the QoS session by utilizing commercially-available firewall products.

44.   (New) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the sending the message to the originating router further comprises sending the message to one or more other routers on the transmission path between the originating router and the destination router to determine if resources are available for the QoS session at the one or more other routers.